

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF DR. ANDREW
BROOKS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman SOTO, to honor the life of Dr. Andrew Ira Brooks, a hero of the coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Brooks, a longtime Research Professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, passed away on January 23, 2021 after a vibrant life filled with numerous professional and personal accomplishments.

Dr. Brooks led the effort to develop the Rutgers COVID-19 diagnostic assay in early 2020. This COVID-19 rapid test received FDA Emergency Use Authorization in March 2020 as the first approved saliva diagnostic and was the first test approved for home use. It is particularly important because this low-contact collection method helps protect our frontline medical workers. To date, there have been over four million clinical tests, undoubtedly saving the lives of many around our country and providing a practical tool for pandemic control.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Dr. Brooks went on to receive his Ph.D. degree in Neuroscience from the University of Rochester and became their Director of Medical Center Core Facilities. Four years later, he returned to his home state to direct the joint Rutgers/UMDNJ EOHSI Bionomics Research and Technology Center with an appointment as Research Professor in the Rutgers University Department of Genetics.

In 2009, Dr. Brooks became Chief Operating Officer and Director of Technology Development of RUCDR, Infinite Biologics, a Rutgers public/private partnership. He also served 17 years as an advisor to the Food and Drug Administration, as Director of the Harlan GeneScreen Laboratory and as Co-Founding Director of the BioProcessing Solutions Alliance. In June 2020, Dr. Brooks founded Infinity BiologiX and became its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer. Dr. Brooks also made significant academic contributions to the improvement of human health and the field of biomedicine which can be seen in the 70 publications he coauthored, several with over 1000 citations in the literature.

Dr. Brooks loved golf, playing the sport throughout his life. He was an extraordinarily accomplished amateur, winning international tournaments with his skill, concentration, and friendly competitive spirit. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Phyllis Brooks, his sister, Janet Green, his children Lauren, Hannah and Danielle, and his loving wife, Jil Brooks, as well as many dear friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Andrew Brooks for his dedication to the medical field and the countless lives he saved by leading the effort to develop the Rutgers COVID-19 saliva test.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND
BRYANT WARDELL RAINES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay homage to an outstanding man of God, dedicated public servant, courageous soldier, and friend of longstanding, Reverend Bryant Wardell Raines. Reverend Raines transitioned from labor to reward on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. His homegoing service was held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Macon City Auditorium in Macon, Georgia. He leaves behind a loving family, his dedicated church congregation at the New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church (NPMBC), and an appreciative community for his extraordinary life of service to God and humankind.

A native son of Macon, Reverend Bryant Wardell Raines was born on February 3, 1977, to the union of Mrs. Barbara Tharpe Raines and the late Reverend Curtis Raines, Sr. He thirsted for knowledge and self-improvement. He was a 1995 graduate of Central High School and a 1999 graduate of Clark Atlanta University, where he received B.A. Degrees in English, Philosophy, and Religion. In addition to attending Georgia Southern University (in pursuit of an M.A. Degree in Public Administration) and The Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center, he was also a 2001 graduate of the United States Army Chaplain Center and School. He was pursuing an M.A. Degree in Evangelism and Church Planting at Liberty University when the Lord called him home.

Reverend Raines served his country honorably in the United States Army as the Chaplain Assistant for the Installation Garrison Command, 3rd Infantry Division and the 4th Battalion 64th Armor Regiment of Fort Stewart, Georgia. He received awards for his valiant service including Army Service Ribbon (2001); Army Commendation Medal (2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004); National Defense Service Ribbon (2001); Primary Leadership Development Ribbon (2003); Presidential Unit Citation (2003); and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (2003).

Reverend Raines was a man of God, truly devoted to his calling—a calling from God, passed to him through his father, Reverend Curtis Raines, Sr., who was his predecessor at NPMBC and the past president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia. As the beloved Pastors of NPMBC, they utilized their roles as spiritual leaders to fully engage with their community by creating numerous outreach programs and opportunities to enrich the lives of those around them. Before his transition, Reverend Bryant Raines worked tirelessly with The Curtis Raines, Sr. Foundation on the development of The Curtis Raines, Sr. Health and Wellness Facility. This holistic

community center seeks to minister to the total person by providing programs and resources to promote both physical and spiritual wellness.

Reverend Raines believed strongly that involvement in his local and state-level sacerdotal communities was an integral part of his calling as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Accordingly, he served in numerous roles that had as their purpose the uplift of humankind. In addition to being the beloved Pastor of NPMBC, he served the Deacon, the Audio and Video, and the Evangelism Ministries at NPMBC; President of the Sixth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.; Vice President of the Sixth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.; Member of the Board of Trustees at Wesley Glen Ministries; Member of the Rotary Club of Macon, Georgia; Member of the Baptist Minister's Union of Macon and Vicinity; and as Founder of the Heal the Hood Initiative, a community initiative to combat violence and address the needs of the total community.

Mother Teresa once said that “At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.” Reverend Bryant Wardell Raines, in his life, did just that, and the world is better because he passed this way. On a personal note, the advice, counsel, friendship, and support that I have received from Reverend Raines as Congressman for the Second Congressional District has been immeasurable. He never told me what I wanted to hear, but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. And, for that, I will be forever grateful.

Reverend Raines accomplished much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his family including his wife, Mrs. Ilashia Brezial Raines; and his siblings, Shun, Curtis, Jr., and Varina. He loved his family. His family loved him back. And they will miss him along with all of us whose lives he touched.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with countless others throughout Georgia and the nation in saluting Reverend Bryant Wardell Raines for his service in the ministry, to his country, and to humankind; and in extending our deepest condolences to Reverend Raines' family, friends, loved ones, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

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